

Under the Republican plan to repeal health reform, small businesses will not be able to receive \$40 billion in tax credits that will allow them to cover employees; insurance premiums will continue to rise, forcing businesses to cut benefits and lay off employees; and they will add to the deficit, exploding it to \$1 trillion over the next 20 years, creating more uncertainty in our economy.

Instead of serving hardworking American families, Republicans would rather have American small businesses serve greedy health insurance companies. Republicans are proving yet again that they are indeed the party of "no"—no relief, no health care, no jobs.

I urge my colleagues to stand with American small businesses and workers and resist any attempt to repeal health reform.

#### HOLD ON TO THE CONSTITUTION

(Mr. FRANKS of Arizona asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, in a few moments, the United States Constitution will be read for the first time in a long time in this Chamber. And I, for one, Mr. Speaker, am glad to see this welcomed day come.

I know there are those that will dismiss it as symbolic. But I remember the words of Daniel Webster when he said, "Hold on, my friends, to the Constitution and to the Republic for which it stands. Miracles do not cluster, and what has happened once in 6,000 years may never happen again. Hold on to the Constitution, for if the American Constitution should fail, there will be anarchy throughout the world."

Mr. Speaker, I hope, as we go forward in this new Congress, that we will all hold Mr. Webster's words in our hearts.

#### DON'T TAMPER WITH HIGHWAY TRUST FUND

(Mr. COURTNEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, despite repeated warnings yesterday from groups as diverse as the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the Ironworkers, the Laborers, the American Trucking Association, even the Motorcycle Riders of America, Republicans adopted a new rule which allows Congress to tamper with the transportation authorization fund and the highway trust fund. And despite the protests from the majority that it wasn't doing it, yesterday, UBS-PaineWebber put out a stock advisory that transportation construction companies were being downgraded because of the damage that the Congress did yesterday.

Mr. Speaker, the transportation and construction sector of our country is in a depression. There is 25 percent unemployment. The last thing this country needs is to tamper with the highway

trust fund. And yesterday, that's what the new majority did.

The Democrats will fight to restore the transportation authorization fund, make sure that America has the transportation system that it needs, and get people back to work in the hardest-hit sector in the American economy.

#### TIME TO GET TO WORK FOR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

(Mrs. MILLER of Michigan asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, yesterday we began a very important new chapter in the history of this great Nation as we began the 112th Congress. I was so proud to join so many of our new Members in taking the oath of office. The enthusiasm and the commitment that was shown by our new colleagues, as well as those of us who were honored enough to be re-elected, to take on the great challenges facing our Nation, I think, will be remembered as a historic pivot for our country.

The Constitution, which we will soon read here on the floor of the House, states that one of the primary purposes of the Federal Government is to "preserve the blessings of liberty for ourselves and our posterity." For far too long, the Federal Government has been mortgaging those blessings for our prosperity by burying them under a mountain of debt. And that must end.

We have a responsibility, Mr. Speaker, to make the tough decisions to cut spending, to eliminate the Federal deficit and begin to pay down the immense debt that threatens the opportunities that will be available for our children and our grandchildren. Our work will be difficult but it must be done. Let us all face up to these challenges and get to work.

#### TAKING THE OPPOSITE APPROACH

(Mr. WALZ of Minnesota asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WALZ of Minnesota. Yesterday a new Congress was sworn into office, and just like the one before it, a top priority is to get our economy moving in the right direction. I'm profoundly disappointed, though, that the new majority of the Republicans has decided to take the opposite approach: skyrocketing the debt, denying rights, and making sure we kill jobs.

Seniors in my district now have access to better preventative care and help with paying for expensive drugs. Americans who have worked long and hard throughout their life have earned that peace of mind. Young people in my district are now being put back on their parents' insurance after being denied for preexisting conditions. Repealing the health care bill will take those benefits away, will kill jobs, will sky-

rocket the debt, and will ensure that insurance company CEOs make health decisions for you, not you and your doctor.

Many of you may know I represent the world-famous Mayo Clinic in my district. They provide the highest quality patient-centered and affordable care the world has ever known, and I would like to leave you with a short quote they put out right before we voted on the health care bill last year: "Reforming health care in America is essential. The status quo is not sustainable."

#### MILLARD SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL

(Mr. FORTENBERRY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Mr. Speaker, yesterday afternoon a suspended student at Millard South High School in suburban Omaha opened fire. Assistant Principal Vicki Kaspar was killed, and Principal Curtis Case remains in serious condition. After fleeing the school, the student killed himself.

This morning Nebraska has been blanketed by a profound wave of shock and sorrow. My heart goes out to the victims and their families and the innocent schoolchildren whose first day back at school was shattered by this nightmarish act. Today school is closed as counselors begin to help the community to try to cope and make sense out of what can be considered a senseless act of violence.

I ask for this body's thoughts and prayers, Mr. Speaker, to be with those students and teachers, their families, and all members of the Millard South community in the aftermath of this horrific tragedy.

#### REJECTING REPEAL OF AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

(Ms. SCHAKOWSKY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of my constituent, David Zoltan-Breiger, 33 years old, who now has coverage under Illinois' Pre-Existing Condition Plan thanks to the Affordable Care Act.

David has diabetes. Because of his preexisting condition, he couldn't get insurance for over 2 years after losing his job. David is absolutely elated that he no longer has to wait for hours in the emergency room to get lifesaving insulin. Without coverage, the ER was his only option. Instead, he now has regular visits with the doctor and can avoid the medical crises that had become a frequent nightmare.

What happens to David under repeal of the bill? He, like so many others, would lose coverage and once again be at the mercy of insurance companies.

We cannot go back. We must reject the Republican call for repeal of the Affordable Care Act.